

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

To place the application in better form, the specification has been amended to note its continuing status and to correct minor informalities. No new matter has been added by these changes.

Claims 1-20 are presented for consideration. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Claims 21-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 7 has been amended to correct a minor informality. No new matter has been added.

Applicants submit that independent claims 1-20 patentably define features of the projection exposure apparatus of the present invention. Applicants submit, therefore, that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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